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FOR THE NATIONAL ERA. SHERWOOD FOREST.

WAGER BY BATTLE. A TALE OF SAXON SLAVERY IN THE TWELFTH

CENTURY. BY HENRY WILLIAM HERBERT.

CHAP. V. The Serf's Quarter.

As they sat in Englyshe wood, is they sat in Englyshe tree, inder the greenwode tree, They thought they heard a woman wepe, But her they mought not see.

Adam Bell, &c. ing the warder lounging listlessly at his in a well-settled district and in "piping peace," with no feudal enemies at hand,

llaws in the vicinity, none at least so s as to render any quarrel necessary, at as a matter of dignity and decorum, the ghts strolled down the sandy lane toward quarter of the serfs; who were parily as a precaution, lest, in case of er the Norman men-at-arms as to become danbecause they were not deemed es for the meanest of the feudal

the two gentlemen in question were excelimens of the Norman baron of the day, wever, being heroes or geniuses, or ir except perhaps for good temper lack of especial temptation toward evil erior to others of their class, and period. Neither of them was in any a tyrant, individually cruel, or intenan oppressor; but both were, as every find them, through our own glasses, and right, and therefore ought to be; for ints us, and is permitted to us by law thers, than for what we should desire

les to regard pain as a thing below and death as one to be risked were not like to pay much regard physical sufferings of others, or to fe at a value, such as to render it serving, when great stakes were est on its hazard. Accustomed own lives on the die, for the most him of honor, or at the first call of fall under shield, and deem death honorable and joyous, at their own test bidding, how should they have thought of the life, far more of the physical or rings, of the Saxon serf, whom they ound, on their arrival in their newly-con-d England, a thing debased below the rent coin of an ox, a dog, or a warensated by a trivial fine, and whom they lly came to regard as a dull, soulless, in-, both in intellect and culture; he sy circumstances also, while his fa ev of relentless creditors, which often

men, for they were noble, not in birth but in sentiment and soul, according to ions of their age, which were necessari to speak concerning the Saxon serfs, and wards them, rather as if they were beasts themselves, endowed with hearts ad souls to comprehend. Had the ity and justice understood thereby, but whit above it. Therefore, Sir Yvo de a point of honor, rather than of gratiishment, or want, during the rest of his at as he would have assigned a stall, with which had saved his own life in battle the run of kitchen, buttery, and hall e sensibilities of the Saxon were a usible to him as those of the charges and, and he thought no more of

an Andalusian charger were equivalent died in the affirmative; for he was, to his lights, a Christian, and knew in had a soul to be saved: nor would ed, that the colt of the high-bred e same relation as the child of the uman parent; but use had much assive and stolid insensibility of the imbruted and degraded by ages of ely seen displays of human sensibilities ich would have led him less to undervalusense and sentiment of his helpless fellow favorite charger or best brood to pine hopelessly, and grieve as one who I not be consoled, at being liberated from and have supposed it possible for the Saxto be affected beyond consolation by the he deportation, or the disasters of his

met sense, apart from ideas of incarorture, or extreme privation, as great

Tent right or wrong. villeyn, service, in some sort, less e either in the field of daily labor field, or the battle-field; he himsel to his suzerain; his suzerain to degree; and if the service of th craded, it was a usual, a habitual which, it might be presumed, he charger his demipique, or the hawk el it more nor regret it, nor know the

indeed, is the great real evil of sla er and under whatsoever form it

quaintance with the constitution of freedom and quaintance with the constitution of freedom and slavery, intermingled everywhere in the then world, anything to the contrary of which they had never seen nor even heard of, in which the two Norman lords took their way down the vil-lage street, if it could so be called, being a mere sandy tract, passable only to horsemen, or carts and vehicles of the very rudest construc

carts and vehicles of the very rudest construc-tion, unarmed except with their heavy swords, and wholly unattended, on an errand, as they intended, of liberality and mercy.

The quarter of the serfs of Sir Philip de Mor-ville was, for the most part, very superior to the misorable collection of huts, liker to dog houses than to any human habitation, which generally constituted the dwellings of this forforn and miserable race; for the knight was, as it has been stated, an even-tempered and good-natured, though commonplace man; and being endowed with rather an uncommon regard for order and taste for the picturesque, he conse quantly looked more than usual to the comfort of his serfs, both in allotting them small plots of garden-ground and orchards, and in bestowing on them building materials of superio

quality and appearance.

All the tuts, therefore, rudely framed of oal render any quarrel necessary, er of dignity and decorum, the led down the sandy lane toward uarter of the serfs; who were enerally to reside within the a presention lost in case of ered with natural wild runners, as the woodbins and sweet brier; all had made gardens in front which they might cultivate in their hours of leisure, when the day's task-work should b done, and which displayed evidently enough, by their orderly or slovenly culture, the character and disposition of their occupants.

The few men whom the lords met o way, mostly driving up beasts laden with fire wood or forage to the cattle, for the day was not yet far spent, nor the hours devoted to toil well nigh passed, were hale, strong, sturdy varlets, in good physical condition, strong-limbed and giving plentiful evidences in their appear ance of ample coarse subsistence; they were well dressed, moreover, although in the plainest and coarsest habiliments, made, for the most part, of the tanned hides of beasts with the hair outward, or in some cases of cheap buff leather their feet protected by clumsy home-made san dals, and their heads uncovered, save by the thick and matted elf-locks of their unkempt and

dingy hair. They louted low as their lord passed then by, but no gleam of recognition, much less any smile of respectful greeting, such as passes be-tween the honored superior and the valued ser-vant, played over their stolid and heavy countenances, begrimed for the most part with filth, and half-covered with disordered beards and

unshorn moustaches. Neither in form, motion, nor attire, did the show any symptom of misusage; there wer no scars, as of the stripes, the stocks, or the fetters, on their bare arms and legs; they were in good physical condition, well fed, warmly ledged, sufficiently clad—perhaps in the best possible condition for the endurance of conagility or energetic exertion.

and currycombed, and cleaned, and showed their lead to a disclosure. But he—he, Martin-hides glossy and sleek, and their manes free from might be trusted. Who was he? A poor, d scurf and burrs, which is far more than could

lessness of their base appearance, there was a dull, sullen, dogged expression on all their faces—a look not despairing, nor even sorrow-ful, but perfectly impassive, as if they had nothing to hope for, or regret, or fear; the look of a caged bear, wearied and fattened out of his fierceness, not tamed, civilized, or controlled by any human teaching.

The stature and bearing, even of the

its proud proprietor, had never been remarkable for its beauty, grace, or dignity. He was, for the most part, short, thick-set, sturdy-limb-ed, bull-necked, bullet-headed; a man framed more for hardihood, endurance, obstinate resolve, indomitable patience to resist, than for vivid energy, brilliant impulsive vigor, or ardor, whether intellectual or physical; but these me though they neither lounged nor lagged behind, plodded along with a heavy, listless gait, their frowning brows turned earthward, their dail gray eyes rolling beneath their light lashes, neaningless and spiritless, and the same scow on every gloomy face.

The younger women, a few of whom were seen about the doors or gardens, busied in churning butter, making cheese, or performing other duties of the farm and dairy, were so what more neatly, and, in some few cases, even tastefully attired. Some were of rare beauty, with a profusion of auburn, light brown, or flaxen hair, bright rosy complexions, large ble eyes, and voluptuous figures; and these bore certainly a more cheerful aspect, as the naturo of woman is more hopeful than that of man, and a more gentle mood than their fellows; yet there were no songs enlivening their moments of rest or alleviating their hours of toil—no jests, no romping, as we are wont to see among voung girls of tender years, occupied in the in his hands, and paused. ighter and more feminine occupations of agri-

Some one or two of these, indeed, smiled as they curtsied to their lord, but the smile was wan and somewhat sickly, nor seemed to come from the heart; it gave no pleasure, one would say, to her who gave-no pleasure to him who

The little children, however, who tumble about in the dust, or built mud-houses by the puddles in the road, were the saddest sight all. Half-naked, sturdy-limbed, filthy little sav ages, utterly untaught and untamed, scarcely capable of making themselves understood, even in their own rule dialect; wild-eyed, and fierce or sullen looking as it might, subject to no con trol or correction, receiving no education, no culture whatsoever—not so much even as the colt, which is broken at least to the manage, or plished the task before him, and manage the hound-puppy, which is entered at the quar-ry which he is to chase; ignorant of every moral or divine truth—ignorant even that each one of them was the possessor of a mortal body, no

But not a thought of these things ever cross ed the mind of the stately and puissant Normans. No impression such as these, which must needs now strike home to the soul of eve ry chance beholder, had ever been made or their imaginations, by the sight of things, which, seeing every day, they had come to consider only as things which were customary, and were therefore right and proper—not the exception even to the rule, but the rule without exception. So differently, indeed, did the circumstar

above related strike Sir Yvo de Taillehois, that he even complimented his friend on the general ears with startling distinctness. And he could not help thinking that to-morrow would assur comfort of his villenage, and the admirable dition of his people, the air of capacity of his men, and the beauty of his women; nay! he commented even upon the plump forms and He tried to form a bold heading to the deed, brawny muscles of the young savages, who fled diverse from before their footsteps, shricking A second time, and a third; a fourth and a fifth diverse from before their masters, as indicative of their bridger and more painful degree than physical; that, while it dedown the inferiors almost to the good workers on the main. The hinges of they are a stout and burly set of knaves and good workers on the main. The hinges of the stocks are rusted hard for want of use, and the boar's hide these two years or better; but then deadens the sensibilities of the masters, and the lack of every ambition of exertion, it hardens the deadens the sensibilities of the masters, as indicative of their future strength, and probable size and stature.

And Philip replied, laughing, "Aye! aye! they are a stout and burly set of knaves and good workers on the main. The hinges of the stocks are rusted hard for want of use, and the whipping-post has not heard the crack of the boar's hide these two years or better; but then deadens the sensibilities of the masters, as indicative of their mox, from which he extracted a square of that dark composition, presently conveying it to his mouth. It was not long before he resumed his pen, and then his hand did not tremble. So he wrote on. Yet, as he wrote, strange scenes arose before his eyes, which seemed to be pering through a mist. Everything was confused, save the distinct outline of human forms, which would persist in taking the shape of Lisette, though strangely her name identified at the lordly port and resounding the attempted it, but with a despairing result.

He laid down the pen, and took out the small tin box, from which he extracted a square of that dark composition, presently conveying it to his mouth. It was not long before he resumed his pen, and then his hand did not trem blue. So he wrote on. Yet, as he wrote, strange scenes arose before his eyes, which seemed to be pering through a mist. Everything was confused, save the distinct outline of human forms, which would persist in taking the shape of Lisette, though strangely her name identified at the lordly port and resounding the laid down the pen, and took out the small tin the state of mind, arising from habit and ac
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The state of mind state in may lose down the pen, and a sec
the white horse bestrode by the tyrant Death!

the sauce, who sat leannees, who sat leannees, who sat leannees, on the mount of the white horse bestrode by the tyrant Death!

the state of mind, arising from habit and ac
the white horse bestrode by the tyrant Death!

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the sauce, who sat leannees, who sat leannees, on the mount of the white horse bestrode by the tyrant Death!

the white horse bestrode by the tyrant Death!

the sauce is a squain he laid down the in box.

assure it.

They raise me twice as much now as I

have use for, in this manner.

Now I work my

the cometh, and who shall say which be paid for my trouble, and my trouble assure it.

The white horse bestrode by the tyrant Death!

the sauce is a squain he laid down the induction.

The sauce is a squain he laid down the induction.

The sauce is a squain he laid down the induction.

neater, too, than many I have seen."

But as he spoke, the shrill and doleful wail

And then the manly voice of Kenric replied, but faint for his wounds and wavering for the loss of blood: "Wail not for me, mother," he said, "wail not for me, for I am strong yet, and like to live this many a day—until thy toils are ended, and then God to me as seems him good. But, above all, I say to thee, wail not for Adhemar the white-haired. His weakness and his innocence are over, here on earth. He has never known the collar, or the gyves—has never felt how bitter and how hard a thing it is never felt how bitter and how hard a thing it is that for a paltry pittance he must become the best best earthly master! His tool of a man like Gaetano? Could he find it free from yoke and chain; he has awoken out Low, low indeed, then, must he have sunk lasting God, whose strictest slavery is perfect liberty and perfect love."

But still the woman wailed—"Ah, well-aday! ah, well-a-day! would God that I were dead, most miserable of mothers that I am!' And the Norman barons stood unseen and silent, smitten into dumbness before the regal majesty of the slave's maternal sorrow, perhap awakened to some dim vision of the truth which never had dawned on them until that day, in the serf's quarter.

For the National Era. LEONARD WRAY. A ROMANCE OF MODERN HISTORY By the author of "The Chronicles of the Bastile,"
"The Embassy," "The Yule Log," "Philip of

CHAP. XX. Martin and the " Property."

tinuous labor, and the performance of works Martin sat him down to copy the deeds and requiring strength and patience, rather than the bond. His heart was heavy, like the work Martin sat him down to copy the deeds an he had to get through before the morrow, if thing, the taking of whose life was the mules, oxen, or horses, that morrow was to be to him a festival. Too which they were employed in driving, and which they were employed in driving, and which in all these respects were fully equal to their drivers, while they had this manifest additional trusted those precious documents to other hands. A witness more or less might seriously affect that morrow was to be to him a festival. Too will be understood why Gaetano had not intrusted those precious documents to other hands. Yet still those thoughts, as he pace that morrow was to be to him a festival. Too will be understood why Gaetano had not intrusted those precious documents to other hands. A witness more or less might seriously affect. graded, abject dependent, inextricably be stated of their human companions, who look-ed for the most part as if their tanned and and whom a word from the attorney would conswart complexions were as innocent of water | sign to a jail, to rot out the remnant of a miser as were their beards and elf-locks of brush or able existence. Yet, an existence not wholly blank, not entirely without hope, without pleasure. Lisette I Her caresses hung about him like incense. Her smiles, her affection, fell upon his saddened and seared heart, like balm in green wounds. Her gentleness, her patience, her meekness, were themes to dwell upon and to distract his mind, when in the silent watches y as that spirit of hers interposed its monitory finger, pointing upwards. Even as he turned born and noble Saxon, in the day when his fair over the parchment sheets, his thoughts revertisle of Albion was his own, and he trod the soil ed to her, expecting him on the morrow. And

he could not go.

Mechanically he cast his eyes across folios. What was written there, that soon so doeply interested him? Property! Estates. buildings, negroes, and other cattle. There it was, inscribed in a fair, round, clerkly hand, and in good, black ink. An accurate descrip tion, no doubt. Goods, chattels, and effect movable and immovable. But this property He read unto the end, with quivering lip and blanched cheek. These negroes then, the men, the women, the children, were property—chat-tels personal; and "my daughter Mildred, whom I intend to make free," was not excepted. For the first time in his life, he doubted t

meaning of that legal term, property.

He paused awhile, and then he read the bond
Having finished that, he perused the agreemen
between the attorney and Mark Aveling, and then-then he began to understand. Oh! illanous plot this; a piece of black treachery he thought; and he wiped away the clammy moisture from his brow, as the idea forced itself upon his mind that he was a party to it, and he instrumentality through whom this arch deed of rapacious, sensual vengeance was to be consummated. No wonder, with this idea on his mind, and the form of Lisette looming mistily in his imagination, that he buried his fac

Vengeance, and money! Gaetano had en gaged to lend himself to this wicked project, for just so many golden pieces. Gold! It is a good thing, gold! It makes men respected, f not respectable. It makes the fool the wise man's master, and exalts the vulgar to a level with the refined. It must be-ave, it is-a fine thing to possess an abundance of that shining metal. What noble uses he-the dreamer lying there with his arms across his desk, and his face buried in their hollow-what noble uses he would put it to, if he could suddenly becom enriched with as much only as he saw lying in little heaps on the table last night, the where, after a night's play, he won twice twenty louis d'or. And it was to be done! And could become rich. It only required for him adroitly on the morrow, perhaps Gaetano would lend him a sum! He roused himself presently, and carefully

nibbed his pen.

He squared himself to write, with the clean sheets before him, and the documents by his side. It was a singular association of ideas that led his distraught mind from the parchment to the name of Mildred, and to con up in his imagination some form that should be like hers, but which merged into that of Lisette: that then conducted him to the neat chamber in the Rue Blanche, where she might then be sitting; and that incontinently brought before his eyes her pet starling, with its re ery of "to-morrow, to-morrow, to-morrow." So it was, however, and the words sounded in his

he attempted it, but with a despairing result He laid down the pen, and took out the smal

flogged a man since Martinmas two twelve- would have to fly at that rate all day and al. I have outlays to make, and my agents to pay

months; and I have thrice the profit of them that my friend and neighbor, Reginald Maltravers, has, though his thralls toil from matin to curfew, with three meagre days to the week, and the thong ever sounding. It is bad policy, I say, to over-do the work or under-do the feeding. Besides, poor devils, they have not much fun in life, and if you fill their bellies, you fill them with all the pleasure and contentment they are capable of knowing. But, hold! here is Kenric's home—the best cabin in the quarter, as the owner is the best man. Let us go in."

"And carry him a welcome cure for his achas the owner is the best man. Let us go in."

"And carry him a welcome cure for his aching bones," said Sir Yvo, as they entered the little gate of a pretty garden, which stretched from the door down to a reach of the winding stream, overshadowed by several large and plant with beautiful flowers. And Lisette there, only black, and that man Aveling the slimy ways of legal trickery.

"You smile incredulously," he remarked with a long-lashed whip. Property! He had know nothing, my friend. Under ordinary in the come to that.

from the door down to a reach of the winding stream, overshadowed by several large and handsome willows. "By my faith! he must needs be a good man," resumed the speaker—"why, it is as neat as a Thane's manor, and why, it is as neat as a Thane's manor, and sold; chattels, for any man's money; and whele the speaker why, it is as neat as a Thane's manor, and sold; chattels, for any man's money; and whele the speaker why, it is as neat as a Thane's manor, and to be bought and sold; chattels, for any man's money; and whele the speaker why, it is as neat as a Thane's manor, and the second deep large and deep, all regularly catalogued, with their names designations, and price set down in dollars. Human beings, owned, and to be bought and sold; chattels, for any man's money; and whele the second deep large and deep, all regularly catalogued, with their names designations, and price set down in dollars. of women came from the porch of the house.
"Ah, well-a-day! ah, well-a-day! that I should live to see it. Soul of my soul, Kenric, my They were stamped upon the deeds there before first-born and my best one—thou first borne in almost a corpse; and then, my darling and my—oh! my fair-haired Edgar's son dead of this doleful! Ah, sell-a-day! ah, well-a-day! Would God that I were dead also, most miserable that I am of women!"

And then the manly voice of Kenric replied, but fairt for his wounds and wavering for the

dream-his fever-dream of life is over; he is other but he-Martin-to do this dirty work of human servitude, to be the slave of the ever-lasting God, whose strictest slavery is perfect deed. That he knew and felt. He had eve done for Gaetano many things which might not have borne the closest scrutiny, but never y

> And morality! Strange for him to think of morality—he, an inveterate gamester! But gaming was not selling human beings—was not cheating humanity of its rights. Oh! there was the total till they clutched the roll of notes, and marked the tenacity with which they held them till a difference between the two. It could not be that the moral code recognised none. And religion, too! Was there no divine vengeants to punish him who sold the image of his Maker? Yes! True, he had long forgotten Gol, ker? Yes! True, he had long long out to or only thought of him sometimes in connection with prayers once lisped by the side of one long he buttoned closely up.
>
> "But am I to receive no acknowledgment of "But am I to receive no acknowledgment of "Me Attorney?" bered. No! He could not pray to be delivered from temptation, though the words came to asked Aveling.
> his lips. His heart did not feel right for so "My honor, a solemn an invocation. But he could reflect, and ask himself if this was right, that he was doing. And he did this, and hesitated, and pondered

did Martin, as he took to pacing that narrow fair is done. I never give receipts in such eases. I fidentially, "I suspect some poor tailor has all the words he spoke." Such and such like thought to get himself custom, for of course a Such and such like the spoke. mind he was suffering, he must die unless he Yet still those thoughts, as he paced the floor, glowing eyes on the parchments that bore in his upon the sheets to which he had commenced ransferring them-as he read them over and over again, till the words acquired a fearful neaning, and he saw only the things they esented and the system they revealed those thoughts, and others crowding fast up his mind, now morbidly cleared by the pote his monotonous walk to and fro, till the day hallen and darkness had come on, and he cono longer see but the white sheets on the d which marked the place where the picture la

And still those thoughts, as, suddenly st ping, he heard footsteps which he recogni scending the stairs, slowly and measure until they came to a standstill outside the do yes, and those thoughts still, as he muttered names of Gaetano and Aveling, and as wit a bound he gained his stool, and lay, his head upon his arms, across his desk, feigning sle but never more keenly awake than now, w those thoughts pointing the dark picture in tis mind, having Lisette in the foreground, strange-

ly mixed up with those negro slaves, and be tring the name of Mildred. He heard the door tried-mechanically, a were. It was by a hand who knew his cust m to lock himself in. It could be none other tl an his sudden and impulsive retreat, he had tot fastened the door after him. So the pair tered, with an exclamation of surprise from the

attorney, almost immediately followed by a loud call after Martin, by name.

"This is very unusual!" exclaimed the attorney; and he called again; still no answer.

"Stay a moment," he added, speaking to Avel-

ing, "I will get a light."
This was soon procured from the porter's lodge.
Martin peeped at them, as he lay with his head still on his arms, and those thoughts yet in his mind, and saw them approach the where he was-the attorney coming first, he'ding the candle up.
"Sound as a roach," ejaculated Aveling. Martin saw Gaetano sign to his compan

groaned. His feigned sleep was a perfect proce f acting. "Drunk!" muttered Aveling, perceiving that t was impossible to arouse the sleeper.
"Opium!" answered the attorney, in a loud

not to make a noise, and then felt himself poth-

eling, as he followed his companion into the other chamber.
"He will sleep off the effects of the drug," sumed Gaetano, "and then will resume we'k. We are as safe as though he were absent." It needed but for Martin to lift his eyes to enable him to command a perfect view of wat was passing. He saw Gaetano light and er candle, and motion to Aveling to be seated.

"It is all very well," observed the attories, apparently resuming the thread of an interracted discourse, "to trust to men's honor; but in sch matters as these, Monsieur Aveling, nabit is to trust only to eash. You will exc "Well," responded Mark, "and I've got it rou. That does not prevent me from say

hat I consider your mode of doing busin damned ungentlemanly."

Martin saw that the speaker was excited. , It emed by drink. He also betrayed a cer recklessness of manner, which appeared to he watcher to indicate that the mind of the Pan

was ill at ease. The attorney glanced at Lim cross the table, but made no reply. "You've put me to serious inconvenier ee, Mister," resumed Mark. "The sum is lat ee, and was not so easily procured. I've had to go But you have got ng to make it up."
you have got it?" was the immediate

esponse, in an eager tone.

Martin saw Aveling thrust his hand deep into his pocket, and afterwards deposit on the table a large roll of notes. "Will that satisfy you?" he said, with some cerbity of manner. "You had good security, cerbity of manner.

and might have trusted me. I'm more than

half in the mind to refuse compliance with four extravagant demand until the work is dor "As you please, Monsieur," responded the attorney, with a forced air of calmness. But Martin observed the long fingers at work, and

cumstances, yes, I get my work done for the wages I pay; but there are some transactions, know, which involve the galleys; and it is est, in such cases, to make subordinates prin- | ble-not yet for the enjoyment of the festivities cipals. By implicating them in the risks, it nds them more effectually to silence. Do you | ment, though that was perhaps the greatest e

Mark did not clearly comprehend, though he admitted there might be reason in what the atthe table-cloths, and distributing the contents of the baskets which the boys were rapidly torney said.

bringing in, some on their shoulders, some or horseback, and some sturdily wheeling barrows now and then the tapping of a drum, or the shrill music of a fife, for it was thought that too

plunging headlong into that abyss of wickedness stairs. Rose and Mike were indulging in a repared so cunningly for him by his patron.
o marvel he buried his face again, and tried to believe he had awakened from a dream. The voice of Aveling aroused him. He lost a part of what he said, but heard enough to satisfy him that the wily attorney had carried his point, and that Mark was cajoled, trapped, and satis-

had he been privy to the selling of men, at I his mildest tones, "I have to manœuvre for women, and children. Lower than this Pe could not go. Should he descend so low?

And morality! Strange for him to think of ranged, you may leave the rest to me." their number and amount had been carefull told off twice. They were then put up again. tied carefully and tightly round with a piece of dirty red tape, that was conveniently lying on the like a sign. table, and the precious packet was thrust into

> the payment of this large sam, Mr. Attorney? "My honor, my honor!" responded Gaeta-o, laying his hand over the place where the notes were secreted. "I am a man of honor, Monieur Aveling. You may trust me. Your af-

chafing like a caged wild beast as he stopped thought, and betrayed considerable unensiness, the poor man will be more than paid in listenhilst the attorney's brightened in a correspon ing degree. The two eyed each other a few

tell you it is done. You may regard it as great many eyes will be upon me to-day."

"Honor is all very fine," he growled, glean ng fiercely at Gaetano, but you wouldn't trust ine; and I'm not so sure that in placing confidence in yours, I've not made a fool's bargain. But I warn you betimes, Mister. Mark Aveling is not a man to be trifled with, especial ly when serious business is afoot. So you attempt to play double with me; for, as sure as you do, by G-, I'll show you what Southern ood will do when it is once up. Take my word for it, you'd better make your will, and say good bye to your clients. I am in earnest,

so take warning.

Martin saw that the attorney quailed before his client's fierce gaze and menacing gestures, but felt that the latter was doing Gaetano an injustice. He recovered himself, presently, however, and quietly replied:

"Monsieur Aveling, I repeat that I am man of honor, and your interests are perfectly safe in my hands. Your menaces, then, are as misplaced as they are needless.' "We won't stand nice about that," muttered

Aveling. "I've only told you my mind and my meaning. I shall be with you to-morrow. Good

With a bow, and a promise to meet him inetano's. Martin now recollected that, in is the morrow, at some place evidently agreed upon before they came in, Gaetano lighted his irritated client down the stairs, nor returned until be heard the outer door of the house slam to, denoting that he was gone. He then quietold, obese spider, and covering his face with those long bony fingers of his, remained thus some ten minutes, buried in thought. Martin nce suspected he had fallen asleep, but, warned by the nervous working of the attorney's hands, had the self-possession to remain where he was, and watch to the end. At length Gaetano got up, and put on his hat. He then ex-tinguished one of the candles, and taking the other, once more visited the inner den. Martin knew that the lawyer was looking at him, and was narrowly inspecting as much as he could ee of the copy of the documents. But he did not attempt to disturb him. He only muttered the words, "poor, unhappy wretch!" and then

ed, the attorney calling him by name age in, the words, twice or thrice. But Martin nor moved for went away. Yes! poor, unhappy wretch, indeed; who listened till he was gone; who got up and opened the window gently, to watch him well out of the street; who then cautiously waited in the dark Martin felt that the associates in the deed of villany were examining, as well as they could, how far he had proceeded with his part of the machinery. fore his heated imagination; with Lisette as Mildred, and the plantations, and the negroes, and the hot sun, and Aveling, and the room in the Rue Blanche, and the starling calling out, "to-morrow, to-morrow, to-morrow!" all this confused and jumbled together, but still there.

ent time among the undertakers, and the "Economic Cemetery Funeral Establishment," in Hyde Park, has cut a little under the regular rates, and advertises that a first class funeral will be attended for \$135, and a tradesman's ay faneral will be got up for \$30. The former rates were \$145 and \$21.50. The difference in these occasions, as inferred from the advertise ment, would seem to be, that at a first class fu ng neral the hearse has four horses, and two coaches are provided; the coffin is of lead, and all the horses are decorated with plumes. At a tradesman's funeral, the hearse has two unplumed horses, and only one coach is furnished.

Religion is a costly luxury, in some certain voridly respects. It is estimated that the current expenses of the churches in Boston will amount to \$240,000, this year. The value of the several church estates in the city of Boston is estimated at about four millions of dollars. The expenses of the different societies vary from \$1,500 to \$5,500 a year. The cost of public worship in the churches occupied by the wealth-ier portion of the citizens will average about \$100 a Sunday. The clergyman has a salary of \$3,000, the music costs about \$1,000, and the miscellaneous expense will be from \$1,000, to \$1,500 a year. The taxes on the pews vary from

Martin observed the long fingers at work, and made an assignment. The depositors are first well he knew what they were clutching at to be paid, then the note-holders, and the bally out of view of the main audience, proved "You may either leave the business where it, ance, if any, to be paid to the stockholders. There are about \$9,000 only on deposit. There many a blushing damsel modestly asked permis-

[Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1854, by ALICE CAREY, in the Clerk's Office of the ome adjoining shrub, or to a stake driven in he ground at the fountain side, were heard pretty continually tinkling on the stones, and bursts For the National Era. of merriment, as group unexpectedly met group in their sly flirtations, ran along the hollow and was echoed from the distant hills.

HOLLY-WOOD.

When I awoke in the morning, the

een risen an hour, the house was astir, and the

neighborhood astir. As I looked from the win

dow toward the grove, I saw that village beau

and belles were already beginning to assen

form and on the seats which were designed for

Bursts of song came across the fields, and

much music could not be made on the occasion

tirely dissipated by the gaiety of the scene pre

sented, and the clear smiling beauty of the morning. I dressed hastily, and went below

sort of playful warfare as to who should carry

and as though he were the creature of son

higher sphere, who, from some benevolent me

tives which common natures could not compre

hend, had condescended to walk among men.

ography, one done in red and one in blu

"I am glad, but not proud, because

periority to the mass," said Christopher.

pity but do not despise men for their foibles."

"And what do you think of me?" asked Tir

pardon my speaking it, but it seems to me yo

"Pray excuse me-for heaven's sake, excuse

nade you, therefore I suppose you can do some

"Certainly," said Timothy; "I would not dan

words carry more or less influence with us a

uigh, which, unable to suppress, he hastily co

"What a confounded ass that old Christophis!" exclaimed Timothy, when he was gon

lustrate pretty fairly what each man thinks of

cealed under the open page of one of the mortal lectures, and abruptly departed.

and dropping knife and fork, in utter ast

ment that so great a fool could live at all.

I smiled, for the incident seemed to me

his neighbor, all the world over. While we were yet at breakfast, Doke

sented himself, bearing a great bundle on

The philosopher graciously condescended to pr sent to his benefactor his own cast-off clothin

clothes in the pleasant delusion that they e

denced the slow but sure growth of his fame

being well deceived?

Is it true that our greatest happiness consis

At ten o'clock I was dressed, my heart flu

ering a little, but happy, very happy. I scarce y had time to exchange a word with Mr. Rich ards, so busy were we all; but we exchanged

more than all, words could have said. The masic was heard playing at intervals, and the peo-

by wife and one or two saughters that were young ladies, perhaps, and two or three little boys, tidy, and seeming to have all the sunshine

the world in their faces. Even the baby

the mother's lap sat upright, and seemed to re

joice in the bright colors that met its eye. Many a youth had a new saddle and a "free

and the sleekest and gayest horse was sure

were called at home; for it is a beautifu

om suit" a little in advance of his majority

be ridden by the favored boys, as the young men

ision, that to our parents we never grow old.

One or two hours in advance of the time of the commencement of exercises, the people be

pated, and all were anxious to secure an eligible

white dresses and pink dresses and blue dresses,

but the elite of the occasion were generally cor-ceded to be the ladies selected by unanimou

perhaps prompted the assertion that one look

The springs which lay along the hollow, par

ered a distinguished honor.

ed about as well as another.

There was almost continual

seat. Horses were tied to the low limbs of the

ple were seen passing almost constantly. farmers in their market wagons, accompa

little work." And he patted Timothy on

are most singularly endowed."

firmation of his good will.

me!" answered the philosopher, ea

ometimes."

Christopher looked at the young

have my weaknesses like other men

"Your estimate of my character may be

From either breast pocket of the

The fears of the past night were almost en-

the musicians.

Meantime, mothers exchanged babies, liftin BY ALICE CAREY. them to see how tall they were, inquiring with CHAP. VIII. great concern how much they weighed when When I next met Miss Halstead, she resum the story thus: It was the evening before the long-looked-for and arms, in the plenitude of their love. Such an exhibition of babies was never see day that my story was broken off.

and the little creatures would have been spoiled for life, if they had understood half the praises bestowed upon them; but fortunately they slapped the faces and clawed at the cap-strings of their kind nurses, in blessed ignorance of it

of the occasion, but to prepare for the enjoy A thousand excuses were made for negligene of social duties, and as many promises elicited joyment of all. In morning shawls and hoods the girls were moving briskly about, spreading for more frequent interchange of tea-drinking

The younger boys compared hats and caps and with artless simplicity related the preciost of the new "roundabout" and brogans. Husbands and fathers maintained a more ignified composure, and condescended to talk Lamps were being hung and tents spread, and carpeting laid down over the speakers' plat-

nothing of smaller importance than the late rop. Good, honest, and honorable men wer they, whose sun-burned faces and toil-hardened hands witnessed that they are not the bread of idleness, and that they tilled and kept the gar den spots which God had given them. Thei gray hairs, or the sturdy pride of primal man hood, were there only ornaments-nor needed they other. No fine trickery of fashion disfigured their native manliness of men. It was reserved for their sons and daughters to sell the homespun for the fine importation; and alas, i some cases, the homestead for ruffled wristbane

and switch cane.

Busiest of all about the grounds was Mr the heaviest basket. Mr. Richards was already gone to superintend some of the arrangements at the grove; and Timothy, who alone had Richards; in compliment to his neighbors, he appeared in a dress that bordered closely or waited to breakfast with me, was seated in the open air, and smiled and nodded his good mornhe rustic; and when, as the day grew warme ing, without ceasing from the flute-playing which engaged him. While we sipped our cof-fee, Christopher Bone appeared in the full glory of his new suit. He looked benignly upon us, he threw aside his coat, and with easy familia ity moved about, now shaking hands with the old ladies, now asking advice about sowing or eaping of some old farmer, and now present ing some lass with a bouquet of flowers from hi garden, he was recognised as native and to the manner born. Perhaps his well-bred courtesies were a little restraining in their influence of most of the ruralizers, and that it was felt to b a relief when he passed along—nevertheless, he added greatly to his popularity that morning. He was the object of general remark, the peered liberally forth one of the lectures on cos -the title, and "By the Philosopher, Chris reat man of the occasion, and all eyes follo

opher Bone," being set up at the top of a page I him wherever he went. What pride and joy I felt in his praises, for nany an unguarded remark came to my ears "My philosophical friend," said Timothy. allow me to congratulate you on the singular such as, "that is Mr. Henry Richards-he with eauty and appropriateness of your new cos the beautiful hair and the sparkling blue eyes "What, he without coat? Is he so plain a man "Really," replied Christopher, "I am a fortu-"Isn't he handsome—that carpet on the pla form is his, and the nicest things on the table nate man. I am provided for like one of the birds of heaven. Now, these things for the comfort of the outer man came to me at a most a fortunate period. I found them in my wardare from his house. I wonder if he will speake could, I'll warrant you-even the school-mas be;" and he continued, speaking low and con-

ter is not so well educated, and yet I understoo Such and such like were some of the obser vations he elicited; but there were other more "Doubtless, you are correct," answered Timsmothered ones, the nature of which I could Aveling's countenance changed, Martin othy, smiling significantly, "and I doubt not partly guess, which were by no means so pleasmought, and betrayed considerable uneasiness, the poor man will be more than paid in listenant to me. "It aint possible!" "I don't bepreceded glances fixed curiously upon me.

Sometimes I thought I saw pity, and son of the greatest importance to my well being; for to unsteady my nerves, and to arouse in heart the vague and disquieting apprehensic which would never except for brief moments still. This feeling was increased by the ap pearance, at the eleventh hour, of my father an Martha, and Doke and Hetty. There was a spare you, spare you, spare you, my friend! God stir, a sensation, all through that great mass

people; and many a suppressed titter and hold exclamation of wonder added mortification to my waning hope and courage. head in condescending urbanity, and asked if he might be allowed to offer him a slight con-My father, with drooped head, and a gener crest-fallen aspect, came closely treading in the footsteps of Martha, who ever and anon looked name the value I should place upon any little token of yours. Suffice to say, I would keep it back to ascertain his whereabouts. I thought at first she was leading him by a string-the nethod of proceeding had that appearance as an amulet, and 'save a ship from perishing My step-mother never appeared to me so ill she was, as I have before said, tall, and on that occasion she wore a long dress of alterna stripes of orange, red, and blue, resemblin sort of pleased bewilderment, as if his capacity surpassed his previous conception, for flattering ore than anything else the American fla The high knots of ribbon on the top of her bo He looked pleased and astonished, as I said then came over the solemn contemplation of his visage a smile, and though the sage bit his overlook the entire assembly without inconvenience. The face was darkened with a frown lip, it deepened and broadened to an actual out she came on with long, firm strides, a the ceremony of the day-but it was all sh could endure. A dozen yards in the rear, ding without saddle, on the back of a rou olt, with its long tail matted together till it looked like the tail of a rat, and with ea

of set back in sullen discontent, came the boy Doke, and doubled together, and clinging to his waist, sat Hetty behind him. One of tha's red flannel petticoats served for her pil lion, and her naked legs dangled low beneat! back, and holding in one hand a curiously-foldher dress. She looked shyly out from beneath ed sheet of foolscap, superscribed, in large, fan ciful, and flourishing characters, "To Timothy." a deep, plain hood of calico, and, when she saw how much attention she was attracting, put he great yellow silk pocket-handkerchief into he mouth, and drew her deep hood lower over he Timothy laughed heartily at the joke, and made Doke happy by a transfer of the present to him self, and sought by no means to open the eyes of the old schoolmaster, who were the new

He was dressed in the schoolmaster's old clother (a world too big for him,) was barefooted, and wore on his hands a pair of white kid glove which Timothy had some time given him, an on his head a small cap of red moroeco, such as very young boys used to wear in the country He would not suffer poor Hetty to dismount vey of the many wonders it presented, quite un concerned as to the attention he drew from the audience. The colt on which he rode drooped his head, and moved forward only as Doke moved him with his heels, and then with ears set back, and tail drawn between his legs. To me at least he was "a pitiful, pitiful Round and round the table rode Doke, pointing out and commenting on his favorite dishes. At last the colt was sidled against a stump, and Hetty permitted to dismount; after which, the red petticoat was hung on the limb of a tree, to which the animal was also secured, while the boy in white gloves and bare feet, and with coat skir dragging almost to the ground, hovered about

before his eyes.

My mortification was alleviated by one cir

Dishards on seeing my father hastened to meet and at once conduct him with in the shadow of our tent; and so kindly and cordial was his greeting, that I felt reassured trees, and wagons and carriages stood thick and could hardly about the ground; gaps were made in the fences mation, that my father was just as good as any body. Martha turned her face to the wall for the convenience of the assembly, and bar-les of beer and cider, and great trays of home-there was nothing worth her looking at, this side baked cakes and pies, were temptingly displayed about, there was one confused glitter of fans it his duty, he said, to restrain by his presence the tendency to gluttony and wine-bibbing which was likely to be manifested. The fact and parasols, laces and ruffles and ribbons, and that he was not lured there by carnal entice ments, he took occasion to promulgate in acclamation to serve at table. They wore no speech of half an hour's length.

bonnets, and were further distinguished by pink sashes, and wreaths of myrtle about their heads. It was good, he said, to come together in al righteousness, and always with an eye to things beyond. And upon all such occasions as the one going forward, it was well, lest temptation To be one of these waiting-maids was considassail us, to ask counsel and advice of God's ministers. Satan would be busy among us that separately examined, though the bewildered visiters could scarcely pronounce whose was prettiest, and an intuitive perception of fitness day; he was there to pronounce the

He hoped the giddy youths and maidens be fore him would none of them have cause to date their final ruin to that dancing day of thought less unconcern. "Hark!"

pinting at the young ladies before him whose aces were happiest and whose attire was gay

agents for the Era.

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est. "Av. you may well start," he exclaimed "and if ye were wise virgins, ye would tear the roses from your hair, and the gav garments from your youthful forms. A few more risings and settings of the sun, and those flower-train med curls will be white, and those youthful and first dressed, peering into their eyes to decide health-painted cheeks will be the cold, sunker the color, and not unfrequently patting the cheeks of a corpse, fit food for the grave-worm, plump little feet, and biting the delicate hands and meet to be hidden by the shroud. These trees, under which your feasts are spread to-day. may some of them contain the boards of your coffins; and while you laugh, the mattock and the spade are waiting to do their work. When this white death-horse shall stop at your doors, what would you give to have this day backhow gladly would you then give your fanciful

sses for your immortal souls! Martha professed herself greatly edified, ling which she manifested by a considerable gation of face. Old ladies wiped their tear al eyes, forgetful of their pretty babies, and the nany other good gifts God had given them; and e young ladies felt uneasy, and the pleasure they had received from the new dress and the lowers—those sweet manifestations of divin-ove—was gone. Their vile bodies were un worthy of such care; and though they could no very clearly understand how it was sinful to en the good things of this world while we are in the world and of the world, still they felt that if Mr. Goodman said so, it must be so hey did not remark the extreme elegance costume, and the unmistakable signs of free lying in his ruddy face and portly dimensi-'Let us sing a song unto the Lord," he said ilion," and forthwith he and Martha struck

" Hark! from the tombs a doleful sound, Mine ears attend the cry:
Ye living men, come view the ground
Where you must shortly lie.

The air was most dolorous, but its mournful erborations were met and drowned presently the "Hail Columbia" of the brass band n at the same time in the distance, heading e procession, made up partly of Christopher's shool, and partly of the dignituries of the ighborhood and invited guests. There was such a fluttering and hurrying

ever was seen, to secure seats favorable t earing the orators of the day. What a spreadng down of shawls and handkerchiefs, what an ening of fans and arrangement of s ottles and bunches of roses and sweet herbs here was! Troop after troop came in from the springs, and cakes and candies were ditributed among the younger girls, who had not been so fortunate as to have been provided for. The seats reserved for the musicians were ighbored by another reservation for the speak ers of the occasion. Smiles came back, and hearts beat joyously again, as the music swelled marching two and two. The boys were resetted of blue ribbon on the left shoulder, as a distinuishing badge, and the girls a blue ribbon on he left wrist. Christopher himself walked sol emply in front of all, and indicated by gestures the place each man, boy, and child, should oc cupy. The wonderful lectures, one of which was to conclude the ceremonies of the occa sion, retained their conspicuous position, and very movement of the old man seemed to say,

There were no printed catalogues, but the hoolmaster, having placed himself at the right oud tone, the proposed exercise, ic by the band." After this, a After this, a boy of sever tool prepared for the occasion, made a very ow and very awkward bow, and began, firs ointing to his heart, and then to heaven

"May I govern my passions with absolute sway.

And grow wiser and better as life wears away." He retired with a flushed countenance, and ceted with enthusiastic cheers.

The music drowned the applause, and on the absiding of this, again, a little girl was conduct ed to the stage, bearing in her hand a bird's est, illustrative of her recitation

"Yes, little nest, I hold you fast, And little birds, one, two, three, four," &c. Her counting of the birds was thought to be as admirable piece of art, and it was whispered about that Christopher Bone would not be ablto teach her much more. Everybody wishes the child were their relative, and that the piece tered his protest against any repetitions. Alternate music varied the entertainmen

which grew more and more interesting as it pro audience had been almost made to hear "The crash of the thunder, the groan of the spheres," and to see "The lightning's red glare painting rerses containing those fines.

At two o'clock there was an intermission of en minutes, all too short to most of the young they in putting pence into their purses in that

pleasing influence upon us all.

Mr. Richards entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion; and ginger-cakes and beer garnished our table plentifully; and a tin-pail of water stood at hand, from which a goard served as a drinking-cup. Our general hilari ty (for Timothy, unusually funny and frolicking, was there) soon drove Martha and Mr. Goodnan elsewhere; and even my father seemed fo once to enjoy as much as was consistent with the nature of things. At the conclusion of each recitation, he inquired whether I thought I should be able to do as well; and when Mr. Richards answered that fears for me were groundless, "I could do anything," I felt that

only the happy trembling of my heart would disable me from a creditable performance of my in, and the exercises were resumed-music and was coming very near. I began to feel a little trepidation, but I steadied up my courage, and ook from a vase of water, in which they had to ornament my hair; they were in a beautiful state of preservation, and when I had concluded their arrangement, Mr. Richards whispered that I never looked half so pretty, and that I needed the table, now and then possessing himself of some tithit, which he devoured, holding his cap before his eyes.

only a little courage to secure the triumph had so long anticipated. I said that triumph before his eyes. music had already ceased—and leading me to the steps of the platform, Christopher received and conducted me to my place. My reading had been reserved to close the juvenile perform ance, and I felt that my appearance had been looked forward to, and waited for, as the event

of the day.

I courtesied to the audience, and with delibe te composure opened the book, which lay on the table before me; and lifting my eves said-" Ladies and gentlemen, I have the hone of reading," &c., my utterance was interrupted and my vision riveted on one spot.

At the entrance of the tent which I had just

quitted, so happy, stood a lady, not young, nor fair, but rich, as her dress indicated, and having about her that air of high breeding which is unmistakable, even at a glance. Her hand was in that of Mr. Richards, but her deep-set gray eyes were fixed upon me, not simply in scruti ny, I thought, but in jealousy and anger. I saw the face of my promised husband aglow with confusion, and with that intuition which we all ossess, perhaps, in matters of the heart, I rec-gnised the truth. My rival was before me, my lover ashamed of me and of himself an defeat. I saw how fond was the whisper in her claimed, lifting up his hands, and turning his car, and how gentle the clasp that drew her head in a listening posture, "methinks I hear the tramping of a terrible steed. Ha! it is even drew aside her robe from contact with my fa-